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FRIDAY
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Lights on the longest night

LLOYD FOX/BALTIMORE SUN

Fred Weimert places battery-operated candles on the Memorial Wall in Towson during the annual Homeless Persons' Memorial Service at Trinity Episcopal Church. Thirty-seven homeless people died in Baltimore County this year. The vigil is held on Dec. 21 because that's the "longest night of the year." **ARTICLE, NEWS PG 2**

U.S. is OK to pay its bills

Government closure put off, but other issues not addressed

By John Fritze
The Baltimore Sun

WASHINGTON — Congress narrowly avoided a government shutdown Thursday with a short-term spending bill that punted thorny debates over immigration and health care to next month.

Still basking in the passage of their sweeping tax overhaul — and eager not to distract from it by shuttering federal agencies — Republican leaders settled on a stripped-down bill that disappointed members of both parties but will keep the government running through Jan. 19.

While lawmakers dodged a shutdown that would have taken place tonight at midnight, the duct-tape approach to government funding underscored how difficult it will be for Congress to negotiate a longer-term bill in the new year.

The outcome of those talks will have implications for Maryland, a state that is home to roughly 300,000 federal employees.

"This is ridiculous," said Maryland Sen. Ben Cardin, a Democrat. "They control both the House and the Senate and the White House and they can't pass a budget?"

The House approved the spending measure, 231-188. Hours later, the Senate passed it, 66-32.

House Speaker Paul Ryan said he was disappointed that most Democrats opposed

See **SHUTDOWN,** *page 11*

City school enrollment is at lowest level in a decade

At 80,590, student population is down 2 percent from last year, reducing state funding

By Talia Richman
The Baltimore Sun

Enrollment in Baltimore City schools has fallen to its lowest number in a decade, with 1,700 fewer students this year.

The drop comes as Baltimore's overall population also continues to decline. Still, a shrinking student body is an acute problem in a district that funds its schools based on student enrollment. The school system loses thousands in state funding for each student who leaves the district.

City schools CEO Sonja Santelises describes the slump as "part of the ecology of the city." Baltimore has hemorrhaged residents for years, with the population nearing the same size it was a century ago.

"Families moving in and out — that impacts us," Santelises said. "We are hunkering down. ... I'm hoping we're going to see an upward tick."

City schools enrolled roughly 82,350 students last year, according to the state education department. There are now about 80,590 students in Baltimore public schools, a 2 percent loss.

At the same time, enrollment in surrounding counties has swelled. More than

See **SCHOOLS,** *page 9*

COLBY WARE/FOR BALTIMORE SUN 2011

John and Roula Paterakis were married in August 2015, 14 months before he died.

Two children of Paterakis countersue over his estate

By Jean Marbella
The Baltimore Sun

Calling the second wife of John Paterakis a "material girl," two of his children from his first marriage filed suit against her in Baltimore County Circuit Court on Thursday alleging she took advantage of the ailing bakery magnate and developer to enrich herself.

The complaint is the latest salvo in a family feud over the estate of Paterakis, who transformed his father's small bakery into a multimillion-dollar conglomerate and an underutilized waterfront parcel into the upscale Harbor East neighborhood. He was 87 when he died on Oct. 16, 2016, from complications of a bone marrow disease.

The complaint filed Thursday against Roula Paterakis, who married the businessman about a year before his death although they had lived together since 2001, seeks to lift the "cloud" she created by her own suit over his estate. In that action, the widow alleged that her husband's children concealed millions of dollars of what she said is a $1 billion fortune to deny her a "rightful share" of it.

The filing on Thursday, by siblings William J. Paterakis and Venice Paterakis Smith, also

See **PATERAKIS,** *page 11*

'They have to do something'

Beloved Morgan State student joins list of Baltimore homicide victims

By Kevin Rector
The Baltimore Sun

Jonathan "Johnny" Tobash, a 19-year-old Baltimore native and thriving sophomore engineering student at Morgan State University, was always a "go-getter" with big dreams — so much so that, around this time of year, he'd tell his parents he didn't want presents.

The 2016 graduate of Baltimore Polytechnic Institute always pursued work on top of his studies — a Whiting-Turner internship, then a job with Amazon — and preferred to work for what he wanted, he'd tell them.

His mother, Mary Harry, had picked up some Nike sweatpants and Jordan sneakers for him anyway. She'd planned to pester him some more before Christmas, to maybe get a few more gifts for under the tree.

Instead, Harry is now in mourning. Her youngest son — always so responsible, never in trouble, such a positive example to his friends — was fatally shot this week in what police have described as a robbery gone wrong.

"It's not fair," Harry said in her city home Thursday,

See **TOBASH,** *page 11*

Jonathan Tobash, a sophomore at Morgan State University, was fatally shot this week.

SUMMARY OF THE NEWS

MARYLAND

HEALTH SECRETARY: Gov. Larry Hogan has appointed Robert L. Neall, a veteran public official, to run the Maryland Department of Health, replacing Dennis R. Schrader, who failed to win state Senate confirmation. **NEWS PG 2**

NATION & WORLD

U.N. VOTE: The United Nations General Assembly voted 128-9, with 35 abstentions, to condemn President Donald Trump's decision to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. **NEWS PG 4**

TRANSGENDER TROOPS: The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit declined Thursday to delay a requirement that the U.S. military begin enlisting qualified transgender men and women for the first time starting Jan. 1. **NEWS PG 8**

TODAY'S WEATHER

CLOUDY

54 HIGH | **46** LOW

Rain possible Saturday **SPORTS PG 14**

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